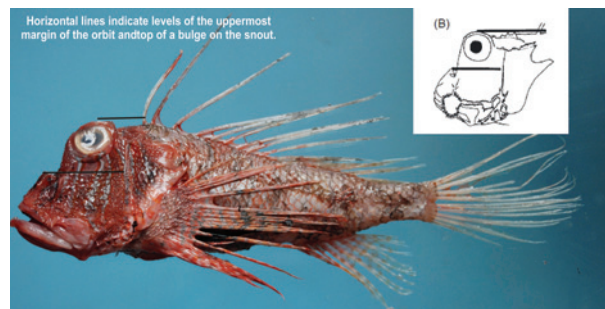


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The family Scorpaenidae includes 209 species of fishes that are commonly called Scorpion fishes or rock fishes. Out of the 209 species only 18 have been described by Indian researchers so far and along Karnataka coast seven species have been recorded. The Genus *Parapterois* has two species viz. *P. heterura* and *P. macrura*. Though the *P. heterura* is widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific, *P. macrura* has so far been located only in the Malabar- Mangalore coast of Karnataka. Mandrytsa (2001) recorded a poorly known scorpion fish, *Pterois macrura* Alcock, 1896, originally described from the Malabar Coast off Calicut, west coast of India, as a second species of *Parapterois* and provided a key to the two species. With the exception of Mandrytsa (2001) and some type catalogs (Menon and Yazdani, 1968, Menon and Rama-Rao, 1975, Eschmeyer, 1986, Eschmeyer and Rama-Rao, 1978, Ishida, 1997), no reports of *Parapterois macrura* have been published since Alcock's (1896) original description and subsequent report (Alcock 1898). Specimens collected from

India, were studied by Hiroyuki Motomura (2004) and confirmed the species validity. This is the first colour photographic record of this species, which was landed at Mangalore fishing harbour by a multiday trawler operated at a depth of 151 m, 40 km south off Mangalore during September 2010.



P. macrura differed from *P. heterura* in having the upper margin of the orbit higher than the level of the first dorsal fin spine base (vs. slightly lower in the latter), the interorbital space without scales (vs. Covered with scales), a tentacle on the lacrimal not reaching the posterior margin of the maxilla (vs. Extending beyond it), and a flap with small black spots present on the tip of the first dorsal fin spine (vs. Flap absent). Mandrytsa (2001)